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Outspoken General Raises Money for Contras

By JAMES BARRON

John K. Singlaub, who heads a private group that reportedly operated the American-built cargo plane shot down over southern Nicaragua on Sunday, was an outspoken figure even before he retired as an Army major general.

General Singlaub, who has played a major role in advising and raising money for the rebels in Nicaragua, was relieved as chief of staff of the United States forces in South Korea in 1977 after publicly criticizing President Carter's tentative decision to reduce the number of troops there. The troop withdrawal decision was later reversed.

After being transferred to another position, General Singlaub criticized President Carter again, that time for deciding not to produce a neutron bomb. He was asked to resign from the military.

General Singlaub, 65 years old, fought in three wars and was wounded in two.

He now heads two anti-Communist groups: the World Anti-Communist League and the United States Council for World Freedom. The League said last year that it had members in more than 90 countries.

He said last year that the tax-exempt Council, the League's American affiliate, had not supplied any funds for weapons. "Our contributions have been only for nonlethal supplies — medical equipment and the like," he said.

The Council was granted tax-exempt status in 1982 after its treasurer pledged that it would never provide "matériel or funds to any revolutionary, counterrevolutionary or liberation movement."

But after the council boasted that it had raised as much as \$300,000 for the

contra rebels fighting Nicaragua's leftist Government, General Singlaub said he was unaware of the pledge to the Internal Revenue Service.

4-Day Conference in Dallas

By most accounts, General Singlaub is an expert at arranging meetings to raise money.

Last year the general invited several multimillionaires to the League's International Freedom Fighters Dinner, which marked the conclusion of a four-day conference in Dallas. Some 60 to 70 Texans mingled with delegates and representatives of guerrilla armies under the crystal chandeliers of a Dallas hotel ballroom.

A few days later, General Singlaub said one of his projects was to raise \$100,000 to buy a used helicopter and \$35,000 to restore it.

He named the helicopter Lady Ellen after Ellen Garwood of Austin, Tex. She is the daughter of William L. Clayton, Under Secretary of State in the Truman Administration and credited with being the idea man behind the Marshall Plan. Mrs. Garwood gave \$65,000 to recondition the helicopter. General Singlaub said the helicopter was to be used for medical evacuation.

In 1977, when he was removed as the third-ranking Army officer in South Korea, General Singlaub had a reputation as a "soldier's soldier" — dignified, gutsy and, until he criticized President Carter, unknown outside the military.

General Singlaub, who studied at the University of California at Los Angeles for three and a half years and left before graduating, began his 34-year Army career on Jan. 14, 1943, when he was commissioned as a second lieutenant. Within 10 months, he had been as-



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John K. Singlaub, a retired general and head of the United States Council for World Freedom.

signed to the Office of Strategic Services, the wartime predecessor of the Central Intelligence Agency.

After several months of commando training, he led a three-man team that parachuted behind German lines into the mountains of France. Their mission was to organize, train and lead French Resistance guerrillas.

He won 29 medals during his Army career, including two Purple Hearts for World War II and the Korean War. In that conflict he was assigned as deputy chief of the C.I.A.'s mission in Korea and served as a battalion commander in combat, for which he was given the Silver Star.